

His success as a club owner is evidenced by the headliners he booked: Nat "King" Cole, Sammy Davis, Jr., Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, R&B acts like the Treniers, Brook Benton, Sam Cooke, and Jackie Wilson, and jazz diva Dinah Washington. While Mr. Roberts focused primarily on black acts, he would make exceptions for people like Tony Bennett and Gene Krupa.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Roberts' pioneering spirit wasn't limited to the musical sphere. In fact, he was the first entertainment business owner to give the famed Dick Gregory a chance when he hired him as a late-night emcee at the Herman Roberts Show Lounge in Chicago in 1958. In the political realm, his motel served as the original meeting place for another pioneer when he hosted Chicago Mayor Harold Washington's initial campaign.

In short, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Roberts' venues served as the epicenter for Chicago's Black civil society and he served as the Godfather of Chicago's Black entertainment industry.

Finally, after decades of hard work, Mr. Roberts retired in 1992 and still, today, maintains his home on Chicago's Southside.

Mr. Speaker, clearly Mr. Roberts is an accomplished individual and we, in Chicago, are proud to call him one of our own. I am delighted to congratulate my longtime friend and supporter, Mr. Herman Roberts, on this important achievement. On behalf of all my constituents in the 1st Congressional District of Illinois, I extend my heartfelt congratulations.

CONGRATULATING WAUKEGAN TO COLLEGE (W2C)

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Waukegan to College (W2C) Program for its recent selection as an exemplary organization for promoting Latino success in higher education by Excelencia in Education.

This is a true honor, and the staff, volunteers, students, and families of Waukegan to College should be very proud.

Waukegan to College demonstrates how community support, resources, and encouragement can help students achieve their dreams of attending and graduating college.

Through services such as tutoring, mentoring, college and scholarship application coaching, and advising sessions that include parents, Waukegan to College equips students with the tools they need to succeed not just in higher education, but in life.

This prestigious award is a testament to their commitment to the youth of Waukegan. The time, effort and energy that they invest in this program do not go unnoticed—and sets a national example of the impact that a community-based organization can make.

I congratulate the team at Waukegan to College on this impressive accomplishment, and thank them for all they do to make a difference in the lives of our youth.

HONORING TERESA P. PEREZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Weslaco, Texas native, Mrs. Teresa P. Perez, who is celebrating her 80th birthday.

Born on October 14, 1937, she has been a pillar in the community. Mrs. Perez has resided in Weslaco since 1938 and been a lifelong member of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church.

Mrs. Perez has held many successful roles throughout her life but none more important than those to her family as a daughter, sister, mother and grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, I again offer my congratulations to Mrs. Perez and her family: Cindy, Tommy, Louie, Rose, Arturo, Terry Ruben, Mike, Andrew, Cathy, Danny, and all 20 of her beloved grandchildren. Mrs. Perez and her family have made South Texas a better place, and it is my honor to acknowledge her today and wish her a very happy birthday.

HONORING REVEREND SAMUEL E. GASKINS, SR.

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Samuel E. Gaskins, Sr. for his tireless dedication to improving the lives of residents in my district.

Born in Lake City, South California in 1937, Rev. Gaskins enlisted in the United States Army at the age of fifteen. By the age of seventeen he was promoted to Staff Sergeant and later a Chief Petty Warrant Officer, a testament to his innate leadership skills. After twenty four years of military service, including two tours as a chaplain in Vietnam, Rev. Gaskins settled in Seaside, California where he continued serving the public. In the late 1990s, the United States Army donated the former Fort Ord's Army chapel to Rev. Gaskins. Through tireless work, he restored and converted the building into the Christian Memorial Tabernacle's chapel still in use to this day.

Rev. Gaskins' efforts to improve the lives of his fellow citizens extend far past the walls of his church. Rev. Gaskins has founded numerous organizations and initiatives aimed at helping those in our community who are most in need. One such program is a new homeless ministry named "The Stepping Stone Outreach Program." Rev. Gaskins' five year program aims to provide housing and education for over 500 people in need. I commend Rev. Gaskins for his dedication to caring for those in my district who need help the most.

Apart from his work to care for the less fortunate, Rev. Gaskins has worked to foster solidarity and strong relationships among communities in my district. One such initiative is "One Great Fellowship," which he created in conjunction with Jason Harbert of the Carmel Presbyterian Church. One Great Fellowship aims to promote racial harmony between communities on the Monterey Peninsula. The pro-

gram, which involves multiple Peninsula churches, has held several interracial and interdenominational services per year which regularly drew hundreds of people.

Rev. Gaskins has proven himself to be a natural leader in service to his country and community. His life's work adds up to nothing short of transforming the lives of the residents of the Central Coast. We are lucky to have someone as selfless and dedicated as Rev. Gaskins call the 20th district home. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Rev. Samuel E. Gaskins, Sr. for his many accomplishments and contributions to the betterment of his community, country, and fellow man.

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. JEROME E. JACKSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Dr. Jerome Jackson, professor of Criminology at California State University, Fresno. Dr. Jackson has had a remarkable career, spanning over 30 years. He is a renowned criminologist, author and lecturer known for his work for various civil rights causes.

Dr. Jerome Jackson was born in Texas before relocating to California. He earned his Bachelors in Arts in Political Science from Southern University in Baton Rouge Louisiana, a Master's in Public Administration from Texas Southern University and a Doctor of Philosophy in Criminal Justice from Sam Houston State University. Currently, Dr. Jackson is the first and only African American born in the state of Texas to graduate from the distinguished Ph.D. program at Sam Houston State University. He also holds a Masters in Theological Studies and Doctorate in Theological Studies from the Faith Seminary in Tacoma, Washington.

Currently, Dr. Jackson is a tenured Full Professor of Criminology at California State University, Fresno. During his tenure at Fresno State he took on a number of roles. This includes serving as the president of the Black Faculty and Staff Association and chairing the Martin Luther King Monument Statute Committee, helping to raise over \$75,000.00. His work has been well recognized and he has received a number of honors throughout his career. This includes the Provost's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1998. His outstanding work has also been recognized by the cities of Fresno and Clovis.

Mr. Speaker, it with great pleasure that I ask you to join me in celebrating the career of Dr. Jerome E. Jackson. I wish Dr. Jackson and his family continued success and happiness going forward.